



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central & Southern Africa Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

11 January 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0977-17

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I am requesting copies of the despatches written by High Commissioners/Ambassadors/Governors to the Foreign Secretary/Foreign Office reporting back on the success of State/Commonwealth visits by HM The Queen between 1994 and 1996.

*COMMONWEALTH VISITS BY HM THE QUEEN
19-25 March 1995 South Africa (President Mandela)*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find the attached information that the FCO can release to you.

Some of the information that we hold is being withheld under section 27(1)(a) of the FOIA, which recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it were disclosed.

The application of s.27(1)(a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with South Africa. However, s.27(1)(a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with the South African

Government could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and South Africa. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with South Africa which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Yours sincerely,
Central & Southern Africa Department



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.